As regards the abolition of the post of Assistant Superintendents and the increase of District Superintendents to seven, your suggetion will be noted.

In special cases, higher officers like the District Superintendents or the Assistant Superintendents will attend to the investigation of important cases and any slackness or other defect found will receive serious notice.

As regards the want of sufficient allotments under the head of batta for witnesses, you have given two instances, *i. e.* those relating to the Magistrates courts of Alwaye and Perumpavur. The matter will be looked into.

About the question as to who should prosecute, I find that there is a proposal to eliminate the Prosecuting Inspector and to entrust that work to some other agency, such as Sirkar Vakils. The question is being examined by the Head Sirkar Vakil.

As regards the relationship between the Police and the Magistracy, they are generally of a cordial nature and Mr. Pitt assures the Government that no lack of respect to a Magistrate is tolerated in the Department.

As regards the hardship which you say is caused by Sections 69 and 70 of the Police Regulation, your remarks are noted.

39. Desirability of laying down educational qualifications for document and petition writers in Public Offices and of issuing licenses to them.

Mr. P. K. Raman (Member, Nominated) said that nearly 50 years had elapsed since the Registration Department was organised and that the number of documents that were registered was daily on the increase. But nothing had been done till now to regulate the work of document-writers. They were absolutely ignorant of the rules or procedure relating to the Stamp Regulation, the Registration Regulation and the Rules passed thereunder, and the Transfer of Property Act. The vagaries committed by them were many and they were left unchecked. The Member urged the necessity of prescribing an examination qualification for document writers. The subjects for that examination should include the Registration Regulation, the Stamp Regulation, and the Transfer of Property Act, and the test should be open to those who had passed the English School Leaving Certificate Examination. The successful candidates should be granted license to write documents and such license should be renewed once in two or three years. A license fee should be introduced and there should also be a supervising agency.

President's reply.—There was an interpellation in the Legislative Council on this subject. The Director of Registration was of opinion that the matter required legislation. The Head Sirkar Vakil was, however, of the view that effectual legislation on the subject was not possible, that each man should have the liberty of choosing his own document-writer, and that Government should not unduly interfere with individual liberty of action in this respect. Government have accepted the view of the Head Sirkar Vakil.

IV. Production and Distribution,—Agriculture, Industries, Co-operation and Trade.

40. Suggestions for the improvement of Agriculture and Irrigation in Nanjinad.

Mr. Kanakku Matevan Pillai Perumal Pillai (Member, Agastisvaram taluk) first requested that small model agricultural farms be opened in different places and that agriculture be made a compulsory subject of study in schools in important villages in Nanjinad.

The Member next said that, as a result of dry lands on which green manure trees had been planted being converted into wet lands and of the consequent dearth of green manure in Nanjanad there was a fall in the yield of crops. To remove that defect, the Member suggested that agriculturists should be permitted to plant green manure trees on *poramboke* lands without being subjected to prohibitory assessment and heavy fines for encroachments on *porambokes*.

The next point urged by the Member was that the ryots of the Agastisvaram taluk should be granted free passes to enable them to take materials from forests for agricultural implements.

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The Member next referred to the need for providing facilities for cattle-rearing and cattle-breeding. He said that, with the increased acreage under cultivation in Nanjanad, the necessity for cattle became greater, while, owing to the spread of cultivation, the extent of grazing grounds had been decreasing. The Member therefore requested that the tanks now remaining undisposed of be not sold away and that the ryots be permitted to grow grass on plains and *porambokc* lands.

The Member's next prayer was that increased facilities might be afforded in the matter of means of communication. He said that in the Agastisvaram taluk there were large tracts of paddy fields access to which was difficult for want of paths and roads and that the ryots experienced great inconvenience and incurred heavy expenditure in conveying manure, implements, etc., to those fields. He therefore suggested that cart-roads be opened, channel-banks broadened and tank-beds repaired.

It was next urged by the Member that the ryots should be allowed to pay tax only for a single crop for the lands at the tail-end of the Tovala channel, where owing to scarcity of water supply lands could not be cultivated during both the seasons.

The Member, speaking about the desirability of granting loans to agriculturists free of interest, said that, owing to the restrictions imposed by the Agricultural Loans Regulation, poor ryots found it difficult to get agricultural loans. With a view to remedy that defect to some extent, the Member suggested the desirability of granting agricultural loans to the Peoples' Co-operative Bank, Nagercoil, free of interest, for the welfare of the poor agriculturists who resorted to the bank for agricultural loans.

As a result of the representation made at the fifth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly by Mr. Sivatanu Pillai, Government issued an order to the effect that two-fifths of the produce would be allowed to be retained as *kudivaram* in cases in which the necessary Maramat works were attended to by the licensees themselves. Though a memorial also was submitted agreeing to the above condition the order was not brought into force. It was after repeated representations that the rate of 3 chs. per maund was raised to 4½ chs. per maund.

Government were not now according identical treatment to *allams* in the same locality, and the fact that, as a result of this treatment, the old Variyur *allam* went out of use was known to Government. Again, the Tamaracolam *allam* showed a diminution of produce from 2½ lakhs to 1 lakh of maunds, resulting in loss to the Government also.

The Member therefore urged that—

(*a*) the licensees of the old *allams* be promptly allowed two-fifths of the produce as *kudivaram* and induced to increase their output of salt ;

(*b*) the breaches in the Pazhayar river likely to affect salt culture adversely be repaired ;

(*c*) the storage of salt be not insisted on since it led to the mixing up of mud with salt ; and

(*d*) the outer reservoir made use of for the old *allam* be not registered in favour of anyone.

As regards lack of sufficient water for cultivating lands in Nanjinad during hot weather, the Member suggested—

(1) the widening of the Tovala channel ;

(2) the diversion and extension of the proposed Alatturai channel at the 5th mile ; and

(3) the relinquishment of the present policy of the sale of tanks by the Government, the repairing of those tanks by the P. W. D. and the sinking of new tanks for storing water during the rainy season.

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The Member then said that, as judged by the standard measures prevailing in other taluks than Tovala and Agastisvaram, the tax imposed in those taluks was less than in Nanjinad, and that the defect should be remedied by the cubic contents of the Nanjinad measures.

In regard to tax he suggested that the Nanjinad *kotta* should be calculated at 7 1/7 *paras* and not at 8 *paras* and 6½ *edangalies*, and that an order be issued to that effect. Finally the Member requested that the tax imposed on Sripandaravagai lands, which was very heavy, be not realised in kind.

41. Grievances of agriculturists not benefited by the Kodayar Irrigation Project.

Mr. M. Nilakanta Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Colachel) represented that, after the Kodayar Project works had been completed, the tanks in the *pakuthies* of Midalam, Kizhkulam, Nattalam, Killiyur and the western portion of the Colachel *pakuthi* were not restored, that 2,000 acres of wet lands in those *pakuthies* were suffering from want of water and that there was consequent loss both to the people and the Government. He added that the irrigation officers did not even once visit those localities. If the Pattanam Channel was cut, not only could the existing lands be irrigated, but fresh conversions could be made. He therefore requested that the Pattanam Channel be opened.

President's reply.—Your representations in regard to the Pattanam Channel will be referred to the Chief Engineer.

42. Agriculture.

Mr. H. Anantasubrahmanya Aiyar (Member, Tovala taluk) began by condemning the work of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. In his opinion the department had done nothing during the past several years of its existence to increase the productivity of the State. It was a waste of public money to maintain such a costly department; the department was not doing work in proportion to the large amount of money spent on it; the experimental farms, cattle breeding farms and manure depots were not managed properly; and the ryots remained as ignorant of scientific methods of cultivation as ever.

The Member next criticised the present-day system of education which, according to him, made the students fit only for Government service. The worst of the evils of that system was the adoption of a foreign tongue as the medium of instruction. He advocated the need for a productive system of education as opposed to the present consuming one, so as to enable each student after completing his education to start industries on his own initiative and responsibility and thus earn his livelihood independently. As agriculture was the mainstay of the country the Member thought that vernacular education for about 4 or 5 years coupled with a system of agricultural education in theory and practice would accomplish the object he had in view. He therefore suggested the desirability of opening, in every village or group of villages, elementary schools in which agriculture, spinning and weaving should be taught. He suggested that a small farm and a cattle shed be attached to each such school to give practical training to the students in ploughing, manuring, cattle-breeding, etc. The Member was of opinion that education in those schools must be imparted free of charge. He also suggested the opening of a Central Agricultural College to carry on experiments and research work for the development of agriculture.

The Member then represented that the grant of agricultural loans did not serve the purpose for which they were intended and that the poor ryots could get the benefit of the concession, only if the loans were distributed through non-official agencies, *i. e.*, through village agricultural banks to be opened in every village or group of villages under the management of non-officials with State help.

The Member next spoke about Panchayat Courts and said that those courts should be made responsible for the administration of civil and criminal justice, and for the education, the sanitation, and banking of the village. Though mistakes would necessarily be made in the beginning, the right spirit of working should be introduced and proper men to undertake all the work required of them should be found. The old theory of experts alone being considered fit to do certain kinds of work had

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